

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claims 18-54 were presented for examination.

Claims 50-54 were allowed.

Claims 18, 20, 22-24, 26, 28 and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 21, 25, 29, 35, 36-37 and 39-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 19, 27 and 38 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. Response to Examiner's Arguments

As suggested by the Examiner, claim 18 has been rewritten to include limitation from claim 19 and claim 19 has been cancelled. Consequently, claim 18 should now be in a condition for allowance. Claim 24 has been amended to depend from claim 18 as opposed to claim 19. Inasmuch as claims 20-25 now depend from an allowable claim, these claims are also allowable.

Claims 26-49 have been cancelled. It is the Applicants' intention to file a continuation application which includes these claims for continued prosecution.


CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims as suggested by the Examiner, it is submitted that claims 18 and 20-25 are in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of claims 18 and 20-25 are hereby requested. Claims 50-54 have been allowed. If impediments to the allowance of claims 18 and 20-25 remain and a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner would help to remove such impediments, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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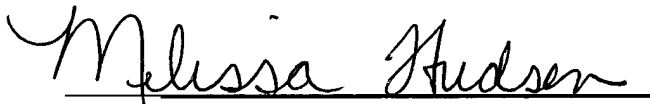
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